

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US 03/32427

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 B22D41/54 B22D B22D41/58 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) B22D IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Υ US 5 137 189 A (HALL RICHARD G ET AL) 1-17 11 August 1992 (1992-08-11) column 2, line 35 - line 41 column 4, line 1 - line 14 claims 1,6; figures 1-4 JP 54 126631 A (AIKOH CO) 2 October 1979 (1979-10-02) Y 1-17 Not same permeability units but novelty is questionnable Y US 5 723 055 A (SIMOES JOSE ANTONIO FARIA 1-17 ET AL) 3 March 1998 (1998-03-03) Not same permeability units, but novelty is questionnable column 2, line 5 - line 50; figures 1-3 -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. ΙXΙ \* Special categories of cited documents : \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed \*&\* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 15 March 2004 26/03/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Piliswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Lombois, T





PCT/US 03/32427

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PCT/US 03/32427

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PCT/US 03/32427

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